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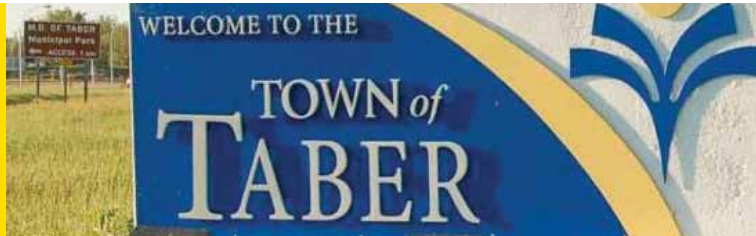
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'It hurts my heart'

Taber official says town saddened by backlash to bylaw on swearing and public assembly. Pages 12 & 13



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RAD RENOVATIONS OFFER HOPE

Coleen Pomkoski, 2, was born with a severe lack of blood to the brain and now suffers from epilepsy and cerebral palsy. Because she is bound to a wheelchair, operators of RAD Renovations have offered to renovate her house so she and her parents can live more freely in their own home. The Pomkoski family is just one of several Accessible Housing Calgary aims to assist this year. For the story, see pages 14 and 15. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

GSAs now mandatory in schools

Gay-straight alliances.
Passed Bill 10 will 'save
lives,' advocate says

Alberta students will no longer have to fight for gay-straight alliances in their schools, as MLAs passed an amended version of Bill 10 into law Tuesday afternoon.

Premier Jim Prentice called Tuesday a good day for both democracy and the province after the bill was approved following three months of consultation with students, parents and other stakeholders.

"I think we've struck the right balance, but fundamentally it's about protecting young people," said Prentice, who said he was influenced by media coverage of how students reacted to the first draft of Bill 10, which allowed school boards to block GSAs.

Education Minister Gordon Dirks tabled the revamped bill on the first day of spring session at the Alberta Legislature,

calling the inclusion clubs a matter of extreme importance to Alberta students.

The highly contentious original Bill 10 was "wisely" put on pause at the end of fall session, he noted, to hear more from Albertans on the issue.

Word of the revised bill came as a relief to Alexis Hood, a transgender student at Forest Lawn High School in Calgary, where a GSA already exists, one she credits with helping her come out publicly with her gender identity.

She also credits the club with helping many of her peers, both gay and straight.


Kris Wells, co-director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta, said "these amendments will save lives."

"That's what it really comes down to," he said.


"Our schools will be safer, more inclusive and more respectful."

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

WITH FILES FROM JEREMY NOLAIS



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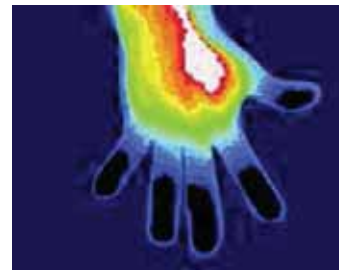
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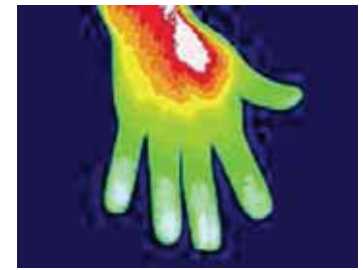
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Education. Solutions sought for south-end space crisis

Calgary public-school trustees may move to expand designs for a planned southeast high school or add on to an existing one as they attempt to grapple with a massive student population.

In the Calgary Board of Education's Sector 9, which covers deep-south communities, there is just one public high school — Centennial. But that facility is at capacity, forcing thousands to be bused to the inner city for class.

In fact, the utilization rate in the sector currently stands at 328 per cent; ideal capacity is 80 per cent.

During discussion Tuesday of a proposed 2016-19 three-year capital plan, CBE trustees requested options to boost student capacity in the south.

Area trustee Amber Stewart said that could include expanding a planned \$52-million high school in the deep-south neighbourhood of Seton that was already due to house 1,800 kids. The school has been endorsed by the province and preliminary design work has begun on it.

"It's incumbent on the board that we're requesting the space where we need it in a manner that's going to be most economically feasible," Stewart said.

Another option could be to approve an addition to Centennial that was included in previous CBE capital plans.

Trustees are due to receive a verbal report on the matter March 17, the same day they will vote to approve the capital plan. **JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO**



Tim VanderHoek sees CTrain stations like the Dalhousie LRT stop as opportunities for cultural hubs. **HELEN PIKE/METRO**

Student imagines brighter, more cultured LRT lines

Transit. Watch Tim VanderHoek's time-lapse video of a colourless commute at metronews.ca



HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

A University of Calgary architecture student never noticed much about his LRT commute from Tuscany until a time-lapse video he took of one of his familiar trips

opened his eyes.

"I just noticed that it was such a large missed opportunity," said Tim VanderHoek. "For the amount of people that use it and the importance that it has for commuting in Calgary, it's really not set up as well as it could be."

VanderHoek, who is in the final year of a masters program, said transit in Calgary has kept up with demands in terms of swelling ridership, but still lacks in vibrancy.

"Each station could be treated as a little mini hub," VanderHoek said. "Say you

had theatres, or shopping malls, or more cultural activities at the base of these things, then people could take the LRT to those instead of driving."

Plans to redevelop are in the works at Brentwood, Anderson and Heritage stations, but transit planning manager Neil McKendrick said all Calgary Transit itself can do is cheer on stakeholders from the sidelines.

"We are encouraging other city departments to undertake those projects, and they are," said McKendrick. "We have developers

that are putting in place new communities around future LRT stations that are going to be going in soon."

He added one struggle Calgary Transit has with densification is the rigidity it imposes if things aren't planned out just right.

"You've got to make sure you can still get buses in and out of there, because that's how most of the people that ride LRT, that's how they get there," McKendrick said. "But other cities in the world seem to pull this off, so I think Calgary is slowly getting there."

1 NEWS

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Contract talks to test if teacher wages are too high or just right

Hardline discussions.

Government's plans for bargaining draw plenty of concern



JEREMY NOLAIS

jeremy.nola@metronews.ca

Alberta teachers are the highest-paid in the land, but a new study suggests there are no educators who spend more hours on the job between here and Tokyo.

Even still, some watchdogs are supporting a signal from Premier Jim Prentice toward hardline contract negotiations. Teachers are the first major group the province will meet to hammer out a new deal, likely in spring 2016.

"Alberta politicians have had it so easy for so many years, because all they've had to do is open up the cheque-book and ask not just teachers but all government employees, 'How much do you want?'" said Scott Hennig with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. "You don't want strikes, you never want to have kids out of school, but you also want your government acting in the best interest of taxpayers and not their own self-interest."

Teachers in B.C. walked



The table has been set in recent weeks for heated negotiations on a new teacher contract in 2016. METRO FILE

off the job at the start of the 2014-15 school year, as 40,000 members had been without a contract since June 2013. That province, however, has negotiated far cheaper wages for educators than Alberta.

Data produced by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation during negotiations found that members in

Victoria and Vancouver were averaging about \$13,000 less in annual wages than their peers in Edmonton and Calgary.

Officially, the two provinces specify \$58,500 in Alberta and \$47,539 in British Columbia as the general starting wage, and those numbers jump to \$92,300 and \$74,353

after 10 years.

Historically, Alberta educators have always been paid more than those in any other province. Complete comparison data produced by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development found in 2011-12 that teachers in Alberta started out at \$52,228 and saw their salaries

rise to \$92,104 within 15 years. Manitoba was second among the provinces, doling out \$52,477 to teachers off the bat and paying them \$80,604 on average within 15 years.

Teacher salaries that year in other costly provinces to live, including Ontario and B.C., started out as much as

\$15,000 cheaper.

Alberta teachers have taken three years of zero per cent increases — members will finally see a two per cent bump in pay this September, followed by a one per cent lump-sum payment.

Even negotiations on those terms were heated and only resolved after then-education minister Jeff Johnson legislated the agreement. His move came after the Calgary Board of Education and two Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) locals voted against it.

Representatives for new Education Minister Gordon Dirks declined an interview on pending 2016 contract negotiations, referring the matter back to Prentice's office for the time being.

Asked about the wages paid to his members, ATA president Mark Ramsankar replied, "That's what the market in Alberta bears."

He agreed with claims from the province that public-sector workers are paid 12 per cent more than their Canadian peers elsewhere but said private-sector wages actually top national averages by 25 per cent or more.

"An electrician gets paid more, a person who drives a truck gets paid more in Alberta ... our MLAs get paid more than any other MLA in the country," he said.

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Financing example: 2015 Accent 5-Door L 6-speed Manual for \$14,558 at 0% per annum equals \$80 bi-weekly for 60 months for a total obligation of \$14,558. \$0 down payment required. Cash price is \$14,558. Cost of Borrowing is \$0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of \$1,595. Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees, applicable taxes and dealer admin. fees of up to \$499. Fees may vary by dealer. †Prices of models shown: 2015 Accent GLS Auto/Elantra Limited/Tucson Limited AWD/Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD/Santa Fe XL Limited AWD are \$21,144/\$26,794/\$35,759/\$41,444/\$45,094. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of \$1,595/\$1,595/\$1,760/\$1,795/\$1,795, levies and all applicable charges. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$499. Fees may vary by dealer. †Fuel consumption for new 2015 Accent GLS (HWY 6.3L/100KM; City 8.9L/100KM); 2015 Elantra Limited (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2015 Tucson Limited AWD (HWY 9.3L/100KM; City 11.6L/100KM); 2015 Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD (HWY 9.8L/100KM; City 12.9L/100KM); 2015 Santa Fe XL Limited AWD (HWY 9.7L/100KM; City 13.0L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. *Purchasers or lessees of a new 2015 Hyundai (except the following model trims: 15MY Accent 4DR L 6MT, 15MY Elantra Sedan L 6MT, 15MY Tucson GL FWD MT, and 15MY Santa Fe Sport Base FWD), who received a coupon will be entitled to a \$500 price adjustment through participating Alberta dealers. Price adjustment is applied after tax. Offer can be combined with all other Hyundai Canada retail offers. Offer expires March 18th, 2015. 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Dog owner fighting to end breed-specific legislation

Bylaws. Chantelle Mackney, who has three rescue dogs, says restrictions perpetuate idea that some breeds are more dangerous



**HELEN
PIKE**
helen.pike@metronews.ca

An Alberta woman is sick of having her dogs labelled as “vicious” or “bullies” and she’s taking her fight to eliminate breed-specific legislation on tour.

Although the province of Alberta doesn't outlaw any specific breeds, some spots in the province do put restrictions on pups deemed "dangerous."

Chantelle Mackney, who has three rescue dogs of her own, said all of her dogs are listed in breed-specific legislation somewhere across Canada, but it's the little restrictions — like having to muzzle her pit bull in Chestermere — that are perpetuating the idea that some breeds are worse than others.

"There's certain private communities, there's certain condominiums and there's certain trailer parks that full-out ban pit bulls and pit bull-like breeds," said Mackney.



Chantelle Mackney cuddles her pup Mr. Magoo. She is hoping to change Canadians' minds about breed-specific legislation and is starting her fight against dog discrimination in Chestermere. MORGAN MODIESKI/METRO

"In Chestermere there's not a ban, but there's restrictions in place."

Roland Lines, communications manager with the SPCA, said although the group does not take a stance on breed-specific legislation, they believe any dog can be dangerous in the wrong circumstances, so they advocate generally for responsible ownership.

About nine weeks ago,

Mackney started a Facebook group and has since seen its members skyrocket. She also sent a letter to Chestermere councillors, and has an appointment to speak about her cause before council next month.

"I never thought I would have so much support in this much time," Mackney said.

Patricia Matthews, the mayor of Chestermere, said

the last time bylaws were examined was about three years ago.

"We've had lots of discussion in the past around breeds and how to ensure that we keep Chestermerians as safe as possible," Matthews said. "There's always updates to information and I'm looking forward to what staff investigations now come back with and what their recommenda-

tions will be."

In the spring and summer, Mackney plans to take road trips with her dog Mr. Magoo on weekends to raise awareness and get others to sign her petition, which is still in the works.

"I just want to meet the public and let them meet my dog, and hopefully change a few stereotypes of the American pit bull terrier," she said.

St. Albert. Witnesses to fatal RCMP shooting say they didn't get support

An Alberta couple who witnessed the shooting of two Mounties say they didn't get enough help to deal with what they experienced.

Rodney and Irene Codner say they're speaking out so the system won't let down other witnesses to violent crime.

The Codners had been playing slots at the Apex Casino in St. Albert on Jan. 17, when a pair of RCMP officers started running after a man suspected of stealing a truck.

They say they were within arm's-reach of the chase when the man took out a gun, shot one officer in the head, the other in the arm and torso, and then fled.

Rodney Codner got on the floor with the gravely wounded officer, Const. David Wynn. He placed a hand on the man's head to stop the bleeding until a security guard came to help and paramedics arrived. Wynn died later in hospital.

Seven weeks later, the Codners say they've had little help from victim services, have struggled with red tape to get counselling and ended up with a perplexing ambulance bill.

"There's cracks in the system and we fell through," says Rodney Codner. "It felt like we were abandoned and left on our own to try and make our own way." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Michael Thompson, director of transportation infrastructure, says to expect lane closures along Shaganappi Trail on Saturday as the pedestrian bridge is lifted into place. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Shaganappi Trail bridge set to open

Development. 58-metre structure designed to connect communities of Dalhousie, Brentwood

JENNIFER FRIESEN
calgary@metronews.ca

The long-awaited Shaganappi Trail pedestrian bridge, dogged by production mishaps, will finally be open in Calgary this May, according to city officials.

The 58-metre long structure was designed to connect the communities of Dalhousie and Brentwood, crossing Shaganappi Trail between Crowchild Trail and Dalhousie Drive.

With two shopping centres on either side of Shaganappi Trail, director of transportation infrastructure Michael Thompson said he expects the overpass to reduce jaywalking. He said that in 2011, they counted just under 130 pedestrians crossing as this location in one day.

"It's a definite win for the community," he said. "From safety point of view, it was needed, and there was also a desire from the community to have this connection in place."

Originally, the project was slated to open in summer 2014, but was delayed by steel fabrication in eastern Canada. The city then prepared to move the \$5.9 million bridge into place on

Jan. 9, but discovered the bridge's concrete support pillars were 11 centimetres too far apart.

The structure then sat beside Shaganappi Trail as plans were made for two steel cross beams to be cut, slid back, re-welded and repainted. Thompson said that "sometimes these things just happen," but the city won't be responsible for any added cost.

"It's a pretty simple fix, honestly, but on projects that are bigger and more complex, even the simple fixes take a bit of time," he said.

On Saturday, there will be partial road closures as the steel structure is lifted into place, with closures to follow over the coming weekends.

DUI charges

'I am not above the law,' Medicine Hat mayor says

The mayor of Medicine Hat, Ted Clugston, says he plans to plead guilty to charges of impaired driving after he was pulled over and charged by Medicine Hat police in February.

In a statement from the mayor's office issued Tuesday, Clugston apologized to the people of Medicine Hat and said he plans to enter a guilty plea. "I am human and exercised very poor judgment for which I must take responsibility," the statement explained. "I am not above the law." **METRO**

Crime. No foul play suspected in death at downtown parkade

Calgary police say the death of a woman at a parkade in downtown Calgary does not appear to be criminal in nature.

A release from city police explained an autopsy performed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner found the death is "not considered suspicious," but noted police are still waiting for toxicology results.

The remains were found on Sunday afternoon after officers were informed that a passerby had found a body at a downtown parkade in

the 900 block of 9 Avenue SW at roughly 1:30 p.m.

Officials with EMS say the remains appeared to be of a woman in her early 40s.

Due to the fact the crime is not considered criminal in nature, police say no further information will be released. **METRO**

On the web

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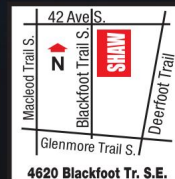
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Infrastructure

Quarry Road paving up for discussion

To pave or not to pave — that is the question parks staff will ask Calgarians when it comes to the last major regional pathway connection in the city with a gravel surface.

Quarry Road Trail, which traverses the escarpment north of Shaganappi Point Golf Course, offers a bit of seclusion from the urban



The western trailhead of Quarry Road Trail. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

environment.

"There are some differing

opinions on whether it should be paved or whether it should be kept as a natural surface," said project manager Jason Jones. "People are pretty passionate on both sides."

While popular with recreational users, the trail is also a common commuter route for cyclists, many of whom have long complained about the muddy, rutty or snowy riding conditions.

During a six-hour period in 2013, Jones said a total of 520 people were counted using

the trail.

The trail is part of a historic road that dates back to 1887 and used to run between a sandstone quarry and the CP Rail tracks, Jones added.

The city plans to host an open house to gather public input on trail upgrades on Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Wildflower Arts Centre, 3363 Spruce Dr. SW.

More information is available at calgary.ca/quarryroad-trail.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO



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Join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm in Room MB202 in the Stan Grad Centre.

Call 403.284.8451 or Email energy.mse@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

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Join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm in Room E114 in the John Ware Building.

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Join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm in Room MD217 in the Stan Grad Centre.

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Join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm in Room H101 in the Senator Burns Building.

Call 403.284.8849 or Email ja.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

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Staff Sgt. Jim Lines is seen beside a Calgary Police Service vehicle in the parking lot of a Canadian Tire on Dalton Drive, where an alleged car thief was arrested on Tuesday morning. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Police put brakes on rampage

Crime. CPS credits GPS, helicopter unit for helping to nab accused car thief



MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

"quite a bit of city property damage as well as a couple of collisions," Lines added.

Several officers and the HAWCS unit attended the scene and police say the response was necessary.

"He forced our hand this morning due to his threat to the public and it increased throughout this call," said Lines on Tuesday.

"We wanted to take him into custody and we did before he caused any more damage or continued to put more people at risk."

Police say there were no injuries, despite the fact the suspect struck two other vehicles, several street signs and a fire hydrant.

"The damage to the Chevy Avalanche was extensive," Lines said.

"One of the tires was gone and the vehicle wasn't going to be operational for very much longer."

Lines said with assistance from HAWCS, police were able to track the vehicle to a parking lot of a Canadian Tire on Dalton Drive NW, where the suspect was taken into custody.

"We were able to follow this vehicle without encroaching on it until the point where the threat to the public outweighed anything else," said Lines.

Charges against the suspect, described as a man aged 20 to 40, are pending.

It was like something out of the popular video game Grand Theft Auto.

The Calgary Police Service says GPS played an important role in locating an alleged car thief who is accused of damaging property and endangering the public on Tuesday morning.

Officials with the CPS say officers received a call about a stolen vehicle at roughly 7 a.m., and with help from a GPS system and the Helicopter Air Watch for Community Safety (HAWCS) unit, officers were able to locate the stolen vehicle a short time later.

However, Staff Sgt. Jim Lines said locating the vehicle was only the start of the incident. When officers responded, he said the suspect ditched the vehicle in the area of Varsity Estates in an attempt to escape.

He then ran off and car-jacked a Chevrolet Avalanche as a bystander was getting out of the truck, said Lines. The truck sped off, later causing

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Cochrane café goes late-night

The Town of Cochrane won't be losing their treasured cup of joe, but the Java Jamboree will be getting a facelift.

Rescued from the clutches of closure, the town's only specialty café will be headed up by two new faces and transformed from a strictly daytime hot-spot to include a nighttime lounge feature as well.

New co-owners Jennifer

Lane and Brandy Hoffman will take possession in April, keeping all but one of the current staff members and changing the look and name of the community café.

"I looked at it as an opportunity to say, 'How could we keep it as a central part of our community?' Because it really, truly is," Lane said.

"We want to really keep a fairly similar feel to the

place."

She added the unique lounge will offer patrons a place to hang out in the evenings, apart from the common pubs.

"We're the only place to date that will be doing something like that," Lane said.

"We've had a lot of really positive responses from the community.... Everyone's really excited about the

wine-bar concept."

Lane said that although they are keeping the shop alive, it's not their only source of income, making it easier to succeed as small businesspeople in the changing town.

"Just because we're taking over doesn't mean it's any more sustainable," Lane said.

"It is an issue in our small town." **HELEN PIKE/METRO**

Taber is reaction

Legal matters. Police would never follow 'literal interpretation' of the bylaw, claims commission chairman



ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Taber's police commission chairman says residents are hurt and saddened by harsh online reaction to news of the town's restrictive new "Community Standards Bylaw," which he believes was drafted with the best of intentions, if not expert legal advice.

"It hurts my heart," Ken Holst said Tuesday. "I'm hurt today to read some of the extreme comments that have circulated on social media."

Online chatter — much of it ridiculing the town — exploded after Metro reported Monday that Taber had adopted a bylaw that prohibits swearing in public, slaps a curfew on children and teenagers and restricts public gatherings of three or more people.

Holst said the bylaw was drafted by town staff and the town's police service and was reviewed by the police commission before being sent on to town council, where it was approved by a 6-1 vote.

"We really feel this is the best for Taber and makes it a better place, as opposed to 'the worst place on Earth,' as the way some



A sign welcomes visitors to Taber, Alta.,

people are portraying this," he said.

Holst said no lawyers were involved in the police commission's review and they didn't discuss whether aspects of the bylaw would violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

He noted other municipalities in Alberta have similar rules, including the City of Lacombe, which in September 2013 adopted a Community Standards Bylaw of its own that contains almost identical wording and restrictions.

But Michael Dietrich, a Lethbridge-based lawyer with 45 years of experience, including at the Supreme Court level, said the restrictions on swearing and assembly, in particular, would never stand up to a legal challenge.

"It clearly, clearly infringes the Charter," Dietrich said.

It's also unusual for a police service to be involved in drafting legislation, Dietrich added, and for no legal experts to be consulted.

Quoted

"We really feel this is the best for Taber and makes it a better place, as opposed to 'the worst place on Earth.'"

Police commission chairman Ken Holst

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on April 23, 2009. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

Why enact the bylaw in the first place?

Taber's police commission chairman Ken Holst said the goal of the town's new bylaw was "to give another layer of tools to our police service."

He said it came largely in response to concerns raised by citizens in a survey commissioned by the Taber Police Service.

"Graffiti was the main concern, and the second concern was large gatherings of youth and other people on town property, sometimes causing issues," he said.

While some of those issues could be addressed through existing provincial

and federal laws, Holst said Taber wanted to empower its law enforcement when an offence is "imminent to occur," which he described as "preventative policing."

"Exactly how that sits with the Charter, to be 100 per cent honest with you, that discussion did not come up with the commission," Holst said.

He added that the "intent" of the bylaw is not to prosecute trivial matters or some of the outlandish scenarios hypothesized by critics on social media, such as charging firefighters for assembling in too large of a group when responding to a blaze.

"We have full confidence in the discretion of our officers," Holst said.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Tsuu T'ina Nation

Police seek info after body found

RCMP and Tsuu T'ina police are investigating after a body was found by a pair of fishermen on the outskirts of Calgary.

Tsuu T'ina Nation Police were called to an area along the Elbow River and the Weaselhead Bridge around 5 p.m. Saturday after the fishermen discovered the remains.

When police arrived, they located a partially burned body, which has been identified as an 18-year-old male from Calgary. An autopsy was completed and determined the man was the victim of a homicide.

RCMP Major Crimes Unit members were called in to assist with the investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the RCMP "K" Division Major Crimes Unit-South at 403-420-4913 or CrimeStoppers. METRO

Labour

Nurses want court to enforce rules

The United Nurses of Alberta is asking a judge to order the province to enforce its own nursing-home laws.

The union says a long-term care home in Athabasca is violating rules that require a registered nurse to be on staff. The union says the private, for-profit centre run by Extendicare Canada has

refused since last fall to hire RNs. The presence of a nurse is one of the regulations that must be fulfilled for a facility to be legally defined as a nursing home.

The union says it was informed that Extendicare decided to use licensed practical nurses because of the difficulty in recruiting RNs.

Union president Heather Smith says the issue was raised with the health minister but there's been no response. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Music

Calgary Opera sets sights on Stampede Youth Campus for new centre

Stampede's Youth Campus will soon be singing an overture as the site of Calgary Opera's newest centre.

Ryan McCaffrey of the Calgary Opera said they're aiming to open by early 2018, but dates are tentative. Currently, the project has secured \$4.5 million in funding.

The 50,000-square-foot centre will include a 300-seat rehearsal and performance space, classrooms, practice halls and administrative offices. Seventy per cent of the space will be used as a "shared space" for the community, serving approximately 160 community organisations.

"This partnership is another step in creating an enriched Youth Campus," says Bob Thompson, president and chairman of the board, Calgary Stampede.

"Developing youth through our programs has



Calgary Stampede board chairman Bob Thomson, left, and Calgary Opera general director and CEO Bob McPhee. CONTRIBUTED

always been a large part of the Calgary Stampede. This new partnership will create synergies between youth and professional artists, providing them with a wide spectrum of resources to further their development."

Bob McPhee, general director and CEO Calgary Opera, added that the new relationship between the Calgary Opera and the Calgary Stampede will "contribute massively" to the cultural health of the community.

"The days of single-purpose built facilities are over; partnerships are the way of the future," he said.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

New program offers families home renovations and hope

Accessible Housing. Organization will renovate the homes of five families to give them what they need, says executive director

JENNIFER FRIESEN

calgary@metronews.ca

After Coleen Pomkoski was born, her parents could think only seconds ahead: "Will she live?"

Coleen coded after her birth and it took doctors eight minutes to get her heart pumping. It was another 20 minutes before she took her first breath.

She suffers from epilepsy and cerebral palsy as a result, binding her to a wheelchair with constant access to an oxygen tank.

About 2-1/2 years have

passed, and slowly those seconds grew to minutes, hours, days and months. Now her parents, Penny Binda and David Pomkoski, are starting to feel free to plan for her future.

But planning for her independence isn't easy when their home isn't wheelchair-accessible.

Accessible Housing Calgary is launching a new program this year called Residential Accessible Design (RAD) Renovations for families like this.

The organization has taken on five families and will be renovating their homes to give them what they need, according to executive director Jeff Dyer.

"We got phone calls from homeowners in this situation every week for years," said Dyer. "So we thought forget it, we can't just rely on funding from the government — let's find our own means to make this happen."

For Penny and David, just

Quoted

"People take for granted how easy it is to get in and out of their house, or how easy it is to move around."

Penny Binda, whose daughter Coleen was born with cerebral palsy.

entering the house is a daily struggle. They've also been unable to potty train Coleen, because their bathroom can't accommodate both a parent and the wheelchair.

"People take for granted how easy it is to get in and out of their house, or how easy it is to move around," said Penny. "And we were the same. Before we had Coleen, we took it for granted. But that all changes when you have a child with cerebral palsy and they can't even move up and down the stairs on their own."

Penny and David applied

for the RAD Renovation program last month, and Dyer said he expects the permits for renovations to arrive within 60 days. They will take out the carpet so Coleen's wheelchair will move with more ease, they'll move the front door and build her a ramp, as well as revamp the bathroom.

"It's been really difficult, even financially, because it takes two of us to take care of her," said David. "So to have something like to RAD come along that can actually do this for her — it just blows my mind."

By securing government funding, finding construction companies willing to participate, and collecting donations from the public, RAD Renovations hopes to fix up the homes of a total 22 families this year, beyond the five they've already committed to.

Currently they've collected \$25,000, but anticipate that they will need \$150,000 to complete the goal.

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Penny Binda carries her two-year-old daughter Coleen Pomkoski, who suffers from epilepsy and cerebral palsy. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Canmore. Man returns home after working toward Ebola prevention

After spending two weeks in Sierra Leone overseeing the spending of a \$100,000 grant from the Alberta government for Ebola relief, Paul Carrick has returned to Canmore.

As the founder of Cause Canada, he has been overseeing anti-poverty programs in Africa since 1988, but since Ebola broke out last March, the organization shifted its attention to prevention of the disease.

Carrick joined his staff in Sierra Leone in travelling across the country, helping survivors rebuild their lives, giving out 760 hand-washing stations and offering disinfectant and gloves to border patrol. He estimates they reached more than 300,000 people with radio messages, posters, community rallies and street theatre.

"It's all about prevention, that's the means by which we can stop the epidemic," he said. "Education and early identification is critical to get the situation under control."

It's been a year since the Ebola epidemic began to spread

Quoted

"Education and early identification is critical to get the situation under control."

Paul Carrick

across West Africa, but he said the disease is still raging on. On his final day in the country, 60 new cases of Ebola were discovered in the capital city of Freetown.

"That was a big setback," he said. "It was a real reminder that people need to still remain vigilant and the preventative work needs to continue."

Cause Canada will be holding a fundraiser this Thursday at the Canmore Miners' Union Hall called Stories from Sierra Leone: Surviving Ebola. Carrick will share stories of his experiences in Sierra Leone amidst live music and auctions to raise money to support survivors of Ebola in West Africa.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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THURSDAY 26TH
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Trudeau accuses Tories of prejudice against Muslims

Politics. Liberal leader compares government's rhetoric about Muslims to 'dark episodes' in country's history

Justin Trudeau is accusing the Harper government of deliberately stoking fear and prejudice against Muslim Canadians — employing the same kind of rhetoric that led in the past to some of Canada's most shameful displays of racism.

The Liberal leader drew a parallel Monday between the current government's rhetoric about Muslims and other "dark episodes" in Canada's history: The internment of Ukrainian, Japanese and Italian Canadians during the two world wars, the turning away boatloads of Jewish and Punjabi refugees and the imposition of residential schools for aboriginal children.

Since two Canadian soldiers were murdered by men with radical Islamist sympathies last October, Trudeau said the



Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

government has been blurring the line between the genuine threat terrorism posed to national security and "simple prejudice."

"I believe they have done it deliberately and I believe what they have done is deeply wrong," Trudeau said in the text of a speech delivered in Toronto to the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.

"It is nothing less than an attempt to play on people's fears and foster prejudice, directly toward the Muslim faith. This is

Harper comments

Stephen Harper is doubling down on his aversion to face-covering veils worn by some Muslim women, calling them the product of a culture that is "anti-women." The prime minister also says wearing a niqab is unacceptable and contrary to Canadian values.

not the spirit of Canadian liberty, my friends." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Calgary and Area

Blaney dismisses concerns over anti-terrorism bill

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney is trying to assure Canadians that proposed anti-terrorism measures won't run roughshod over civil liberties.

In his testimony Tuesday at committee hearings examining the federal legislation, Blaney dismissed concerns the new provisions would allow the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to squelch or infiltrate environmental protests that fall outside the letter of the law.

The measures are needed to protect the public from extremists who hate Canadian

values, Blaney said during a meeting of the House of Commons public-safety committee.

The international jihadi movement has "declared war on Canada" and other countries around the world, Blaney told MPs on Tuesday as they began hearing testimony on the federal legislation.

The Conservatives brought in the bill, which would broaden CSIS' mandate, following the murders of two Canadian soldiers last October. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Expense scandal

Sen. Mike Duffy's trial to likely focus on arcane rules

The provocative opening statements of the Crown and defence might start Sen. Mike Duffy's fraud and bribery trial off with a bang, but what follows is expected to be less dramatic.

The beginning is expected to dwell on the world of Senate financial rules. The answer to what constitutes a legitimate travel or per diem claim will go the heart of the dispute over whether Duffy's expenses constituted fraud or not.

Duffy faces 31 charges relating to alleged breach of trust, fraud and bribery. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Slain soldier honoured in repatriation ceremony

Trenton, Ont. Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron was shot and killed in what has been described as a friendly fire incident in Iraq

Scores of Canadians peered through the fence of an air-force base as the body of a Canadian soldier killed in Iraq returned home Tuesday in a once-common ceremony that has grown rare since the end of the country's mission in Afghanistan.

Many saluted in silence on a raw grey day as the casket carrying Sgt. Andrew Doiron began the journey to Toronto following a brief repatriation ceremony at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in eastern Ontario.

At the family's request, citizens who showed up to pay their respects and media



Military pallbearers from the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command carry the flag-draped casket of Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron on Tuesday at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Trenton, Ont. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

were kept outside the base.

Among dignitaries on the tarmac were Gov. Gen. David Johnston and Defence Minister Jason Kenney.

Outside the fence, a "Support Our Troops" flag fluttered in the breeze as people watched quietly.

After the ceremony, the motorcade carrying Doiron's casket headed west to Toronto for an autopsy along a stretch of highway dubbed the "Highway of Heroes" that frequently saw such motorcades during Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan.

Only the body of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo — gunned down as he stood ceremonial guard in Ottawa in October — has travelled the route since the mission's end in 2011.

People began lining the route hours in advance, with some setting up Canadian flags on highway overpasses.

Doiron, 31, described as an enthusiastic and patriotic soldier, was shot and killed in what has been described as a friendly fire incident in the dark of night as his special-forces unit was returning to an observation post in Iraq.

Officials with the Kurdish peshmerga said their forces opened fire on the unsuspecting Canadians after they showed up at the front line unannounced — a claim denied by Canadian officials.

The Canadian soldiers are part of a 69-strong contingent helping advise and train forces fighting against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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London, U.K.

Syria-bound British teens won't be prosecuted upon their return

Three British schoolgirls who travelled to Syria to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant group won't be prosecuted for terrorism if they return, a senior British police officer said Tuesday.

Mark Rowley, head of counterterrorism for the Metropolitan Police, told lawmakers that "we have no evidence to support (the teens') involvement in terrorism."

The journey of the three teenagers last month shocked many in Britain, left their families bewildered and highlighted the difficulty of halting the radicalization of young Muslims.

Rowley said the flow of young Britons to Syria continued, with up to 700 known to have gone to join militant groups.

"That's a minimum," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French athletes die in chopper crash while filming reality show

Argentina. Sailing champion Florence Arthaud, Olympians Camille Muffat and Alexis Vastine killed

Much of France was in mourning and looking for answers Tuesday following the crash of two helicopters in a remote part of Argentina. Ten people were killed, three of them French sports stars taking part in a glitzy new reality TV show.

Olympic champion swimmer Camille Muffat, Olympic boxer and bronze-medallist Alexis Vastine and pioneering sailor Florence Arthaud died in Monday's crash. They had been among the contestants in the reality TV show Dropped.

The helicopters collided in the air near Villa Castelli, about 1,170 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires. La Rioja regional Secretary of Security Cesar Angulo told TN tele-



From left: Sailing champion Florence Arthaud, French Olympic gold-medal swimmer Camille Muffat and Olympic boxer Alexis Vastine. Two helicopters carrying the French sports stars, who were filming a popular European reality show, crashed in a remote part of Argentina, killing 10 people, including Muffat, Vastine and Arthaud.

MICHEL LIPCHITZ, MICHAEL SOHN AND PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



vision. All 10 people on board — eight French nationals and two Argentine pilots — were killed.

Photographs and mobile-phone footage showed the burning wreckage of the helicopters in dry scrubland of a sparsely populated area along

the Andes mountain range that separates Argentina and Chile.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said France's foreign ministry is in contact with authorities in Argentina to determine what caused the crash. President Francois Hollande

expressed "immense sadness" about those who died.

The crew had arrived Sunday in Villa Castelli, where it had previously filmed a version of Dropped for Switzerland and Denmark, said Mayor Andres Navarrete. The remaining victims were identified as

Laurent Sbasnik, Lucie Mei-Dalby, Volodia Guinard, Brice Guilbert and Edouard Gilles, as well as pilots Juan Carlos Castillo and Roberto Abate.

French Secretary of State for Sport Thierry Braillard said on the BFM TV channel that "French sport has lost three stars this morning."

Other Dropped contestants on hand included former France and Arsenal striker Sylvain Wiltord, ice-skating champion Philippe Candeloro, former Olympic swimming champion Alain Bernard and veteran cyclist Jeannie Longo. None of them were involved in the accident.

William Forgues, Muffat's companion, told i-Tele cable news channel that she was instructed not to reveal details about the show filming but "told everybody that it was great. She was not forced (to do things). She was where she wanted to be."

"C'est la vie," he added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar police arrest 127 people at protest over new education law

Hundreds of riot police charged at students protesting Myanmar's new education law Tuesday, pummeling them with batons and dragging them into trucks, bringing a quick, harsh end to a week-long standoff.

Security forces threw stones and jumped over fences as they broke up the demonstration, said Honey Oo, a student leader. "Many people were beaten and several arrested," she said by telephone.

Information minister Ye

Htut said 127 people, including 65 students, were arrested and 16 police and eight demonstrators had been injured.

Demonstrators were joined by monks and other activists, bringing their number to around 200 in the last nine days, when they were blocked by police and began a sit-in on a road near a monastery in Letpadan, about 140 kilometres north of Yangon.

The two sides appeared close to an agreement early

Tuesday, with police stating students could march to a nearby town and then be transported to Yangon by government-provided trucks, but police abruptly turned on demonstrators, chasing them with batons and sticks, beating and kicking them as they were dragged into the waiting trucks.

In recent days the government has crushed several protests in and around Yangon, usually by dragging protesters into trucks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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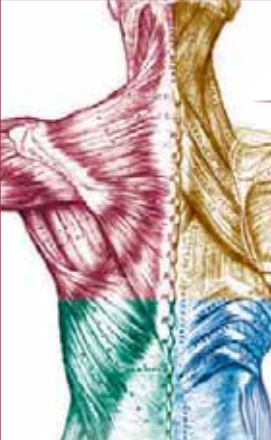
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Alarm raised over recent derailments

Oil trains. Canadian and U.S. officials working on regulations to increase safety of train operations

Four trains hauling crude oil have derailed in Canada and the U.S. since mid-February, rupturing tank cars, spilling their contents, polluting waterways and igniting fires that burned for days. The derailments have deepened safety concerns that if an oil-train accident were to occur in a populated area, the results could be disastrous.

Rail and hazardous materials safety experts said the number of accidents is going up because the oil boom in Canada and the U.S. has dramatically increased the amount of oil shipped by rail. Last year, railroads moved 493,126 tank cars of crude oil, compared to 407,761 in 2013. That's up from just 9,500 cars in 2008 before the hydraulic fracturing boom took off in the Bakken region of North Dakota, Montana and Canada. Most of the accidents in the U.S., as well as the Lac-Mégantic derailment, involved trains hauling Bakken crude. Government tests show Bakken crude is more

Quoted

"You get real cold weather like this and a rail can just snap ... a wheel will shatter like a piece of glass."

Ed Dobranetski, former U.S. National Transportation Safety Board investigator.

volatile than most crude oil.

Experts say when it is very cold, steel rails and train car wheels can contract and become brittle. If the steel has a manufacturing flaw, it can spread rapidly in the cold weather. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Children's medicine

Manufacturer agrees to pay \$25M

A manufacturer of Infants' and Children's Tylenol and Children's Motrin has agreed to plead guilty to a criminal charge it sold products that contained metal particles, say court documents unsealed Tuesday. McNeil Consumer Healthcare agreed to pay \$25 million US to resolve the case.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
78.86 cents (-0.53¢)

TSX
14,641.76 (-212.73)

OIL
\$48.29 US (-\$1.71)

GOLD
\$1,160.10 US (-\$6.40)

Natural gas: \$2.732 (+5.4)
Dow Jones: 17,662.94 (-332.78)



Target's troubles spread

People leave Target Corp.'s downtown Minneapolis corporate headquarters Tuesday. After shedding 17,600 employees in Canada following its decision to pull out of the country, Target is continuing the exercise in the U.S. The retailer said Tuesday it is laying off 1,700 workers and eliminating another 1,400 unfilled positions as part of a restructuring aimed at saving \$2 billion US over the next two years. A Target spokeswoman said the cuts will come primarily at headquarters locations in the Minneapolis area, where the company employs about 13,500 people. **COURTESY STAR TRIBUNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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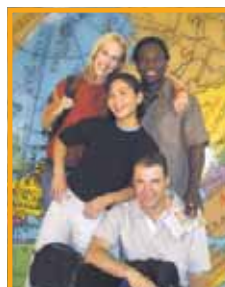
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VOICES

TV COUNTING DOWN TO ITS FINAL EPISODE

With HBO's announcement that they are switching over to an internet-based service, it's only a matter of time before cable dies for good



**MATT
LAFORGE**
readers@metronews.ca

You see Tim Cook, resplendent in a half-zip mock-neck pullover, next to a 30-foot projection of Mickey Mouse on a watch face and you say to yourself, "This is the most significant consumer-technology announcement of the week." But you're forgetting HBO. You're forgetting the real news.

The real news, in case you missed it: HBO is breaking up with cable.

Richard Plepler, head of the pay-TV giant, showed up at Apple's big unveiling on Monday to tout HBO NOW, a new internet-based service, first hinted at in October, that will launch in time for the Game of Thrones premiere in April and that will make available to viewers who don't have a cable or satellite subscription a large and up-to-date trove of the network's much-loved and much-coveted offerings. Deadwood, The Wire, The Sopranos — the whole gang (save Dream On, Larry Sanders and a bunch of other stuff) will be accessible on Apple TV and all the other iThings.

Need I even mention that this service is only planned for the U.S.? That's right — it's yet another boon for the American media consumer (add it to the reasonable mobile data rates and that seemingly bottomless Netflix selection) and yet another oc-

casation for the Canadian media consumer to feel sorry for herself as the words "Content not available in your territory" flash in her mind's eye.

Except that to see the HBO-Apple deal simply as another treat that we're not getting (right away) is a typically Canadian overemphasis on the superficial downside.

Let's suspend the pity party long enough to recall what's been going on up here the past couple of years: Millions of Canadians enthusiastically sign up for Netflix; thousands cut the cable cord; the Conservatives use time in a throne speech to promise to unbundle cable packages; then, later, they vow in a tweet never to tax Netflix and YouTube; Rogers and Bell launch Shomi and Crave, so-called over-the-top services that provide to their TV subscribers streams of shows and movies not available on Netflix; the CRTC issues a surprise fiat that under-

mines the value of Bell's 2017 Super Bowl broadcast rights by preventing the broadcaster from subbing out American ads during the game.

There's a pattern forming on both sides of the border, and the HBO-

Apple deal is just the latest manifestation of it.

The pattern is intricately disjointed when inspected up close, but, at a distance, its broad form is easy to discern: TV as we know it in this country is about to be a thing of the past.

The capacity to stream video via the internet — no air-waves, insulated coax or satellite relay required — means the TV-signal distributors (i.e., the cable and satellite companies) no longer hold all the cards. The government knows it, the internet-based startups know it, the distributors definitely know it, and the networks know it, too.

The media blogger Steve Faguy made the situation plain a few months ago in an interview on the Canadaland podcast: There's nothing preventing every Canadian channel from streaming online, and the only reason they're not already doing it is that, for the moment, despite Netflix and cord-cutting, the traditional regulated broadcast system is still where the bulk of viewers

are found.

But there's no reason why that can't change and quickly.

It's in this light that the HBO-Apple deal is instructive: That HBO, the consummate premium cable-and-satellite brand, is now taking the first step toward disintermediating its cable and satellite partners should be seen by Canadian observers not as a power move on the part of one-of-a-kind player, but as a sure sign of things to come.

Big-ticket movie-and-prestige-drama channels constitute one of three main categories of TV product that wed people to their cable bills; news and live sports are the others.

Now the biggest of the big-tickets is stepping out. What's to stop the NHL or NFL from doing the same? Broadcast-rights contracts? Those don't last forever.

If you're a cable or satellite provider, you can take solace in the fact that you'll still be selling internet access when all the TV shows are streamed on the internet.

Or at least you will be until Tim Cook reaches into his pullover drawer and announces that Apple is going to start giving the internet away for free.

Matt LaForge is Metro Canada's managing editor of Canada, world and business.



Character matters — and it's worth the expense



**JESSE
STANIFORTH**
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There are good reasons why governments see fit to intervene in granting birth certificates to parents who wish to give their children unusual names.

They don't want children to be named things that will cause offense to others ("God Hates Italians Johnson"), or to be named things that will bring hurt or ridicule upon them ("Ugly Moron Smith").

These are reasonable examples of government interference in the naming of children.

But the Northwest Territories' Vital Statistics Department went too far when they told Shene Catholique-Valpy that she couldn't register her newborn baby under her given name

— Sahai'aa, Chipewyan for "when the sun peeks through."

The reason they gave was that the name included a character that's not part of the Roman alphabet, and therefore couldn't be included on a birth certificate or on federal documents like passports.

If you don't know how to pronounce that name, that's fine. Like me, you're not used to characters that indicate a glottal stop — a sound we don't use in English.

One might argue this is our problem, as English speakers, and not the problem of the mother or her child.

However, we can all agree that the child has a name, whether or not all of us can pronounce it.

Being asked by the territorial government to register her birth under a different one, implying a different pronunciation and mean-

ing, is an insult to Catholique-Valpy.

In Canada, names matter more to many Indigenous people than non-Natives may think.

For several decades now, there has been a growing demand for Indigenous people to reclaim the languages, cultures, and traditions that Canada spent more than 100 years trying to destroy in what former prime minister Paul Martin called the "cultural genocide" of Residential Schools.

That recovery of history is without a doubt an inspiration to the growing chorus of voices demanding that Sahai'aa Catholique-Valpy get a birth certificate with her actual name on it. (Up to this point she doesn't have one, nor a health card: her mother has been paying out of pocket for her medical treatment.)

The only strength of the argu-

ment in favour of denying her a birth certificate is that it would cause bureaucrats would have to figure out a way to include in Canadian identification documents languages like Chipewyan that existed on this land for thousands of years before Europeans decided it was Canada.

That will have a financial cost, and we can expect a protest from the usual aggrieved voices over the outrage of the government spending money to include the characters required to name all Canadians in its documents.

However, Canada isn't doing enough right now to foster a healthy relationship between its government and its First Peoples.

This is a problem both on grand and minor scales. When the Assembly of First Nations is consistently at

odds with the feds over issues like education we see the tension in its more dramatic form.

Yet when a Chipewyan woman can't even get her child a birth certificate and health card because bureaucrats are not willing to use characters outside the Roman alphabet the indignation we are hearing is no less fiery, and no less pressing to resolve with common sense and decency.

It will cost money to reprogram some computers, but building better relationships with Canada's first peoples — both in big and small ways — should seem worth the expense.

Jesse Staniforth is a Montreal-based journalist and a regular contributor to the Nation magazine, serving the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the communities around James Bay.

In the promised Zoolander

The obvious highlight of Paris Fashion Week so far?

The sight of veteran male model — and signature-look Blue Steel innovator — Derek Zoolander triumphantly returning to the runway for Valentino, sporting a custom Night Butterflies brocade suit and overcoat.

OK, not really. But Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson did make a surprise appearance in Paris, using the catwalk as a means to cleverly announce that a sequel to the 2001 comedy Zoolander is officially happening. The long-awaited followup has been talked up for years, with Stiller discussing plot ideas in interviews as far back as 2010.

Justin Theroux reportedly wrote the script, with Penelope Cruz on board to star alongside Stiller, Wilson and Will Ferrell. No release date has been set yet.



Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE
ON THE WORLD
OF CELEBRITIES



Mom, don't Express Yourself

So what's it like to be the 18-year-old daughter of an iconic, boundary-



Madonna and Lourdes

pushing sex symbol? Pretty awkward, as it turns out. Madonna admits to Carson Daly during a Today show interview that oldest daughter Lourdes isn't dealing too well with some of mom's racier material. "(Lourdes) is horrified by all of it," Madonna explains. "She just wants me to be her mom." That's one request Madonna

has apparently been taking very seriously, especially now Lourdes is off to the University of Michigan as a freshman. It turns out Madonna can still embarrass her daughter the old-fashioned way. "I'm very, you know, worried. 'Are you OK? Are you getting enough sleep? Are you eating right?'" she admits. "I was worried about the fact that she didn't have enough towels, Q-tips, you know." Lourdes, it seems, just can't win.

Blurring the lines

A jury awarded Marvin Gaye's children \$7.3 million on Tuesday after determining singers Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams copied their father's music to create Blurred Lines, the biggest hit song of 2013.

The verdict could tarnish the legacy of Williams, a reliable hit-maker who has won Grammy Awards and appears on NBC's music competition show The Voice.

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Juno you can do better

As the Junos roar into Hamilton this weekend, it's clear the venerable awards show has grown a bit rusty. Below are five ways the Junos might be improved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Charm Drake

Drake's gold throne sits atop an enviable nexus of critical adoration, sales supremacy and superstardom. Rightfully, he should have many Junos alongside his other gilded baubles. But he hasn't appeared at the show since 2011, when he was shut out — and, his rap peers argue, embarrassed — in six different categories, despite hosting the show in his hometown. Lord knows, his absence is deeply felt.

An M.I.A. MC

No disrespect intended to Jacob Hoggard (below), but his band Hedley had already been announced as a Junos performer when CTV said he would also host. The decision generated little discernible buzz for the show — as did having Classified, Johnny Reid and Serena Ryder collectively host last year. The three shows prior to that were helmed by Michael Bublé, William Shatner and Drake, who infused the Junos with a greater degree of star power.



If the host is unlikely to bring in new viewers, why not go without one — as the Junos did successfully in 2010?



Take more risks

Organizers seemed to make an effort to reel in newcomers this year, including Shawn Mendes, Magic! and Kiesza (above), along with veteran Deadmau5. But what took so long? The Junos should endeavour for early adopter status more often, and broaden their idea of relevance. For instance: Wouldn't a few of Grimes' roughly 270,000 Twitter followers tune in to see the eccentric electronic composer's Junos debut, regardless of her album sales?

Play Cancon Tinder

The Grammys haphazardly play musical matchmaker and often it doesn't work out. But the Junos have had better luck in the rare instances they've coerced collaboration — Deadmau5 and Lights come to mind, as does the increasingly historic pairing of Drake and Justin Bieber. Continuing to link Canucks might generate more excitement than seeing the same familiar faces play their last or (eye-roll) next single.



Conquer insecurity

Can we cut the international album of the year category altogether? The only rational justification for its existence is to persuade non-Canadian stars to attend the show — and if that's the plan, it's been failing for years. Unless CTV is keeping secret an appearance by Katy Perry, Taylor Swift or Lorde (above). While this category has allowed us the juicy opportunity to accurately refer to Eminem as a two-time Juno winner, its time has come and gone.

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Beyond the beach in Punta Cana

Trend. Tour operators realize travellers want more than just a rum-soaked resort stay: Enter the boutique resort with immersive cultural activities

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
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This time of year, most Canadians are ready to shed their down-filled parkas and salt-and-grime-covered boots in favour of bathing suits and flip-flops — and soak up some vitamin D.

But not everyone wants to stay in a crowded all-inclusive where they don't see life beyond the walls of the resort. These days, there's a trend toward smaller, boutique resorts offering a more personalized experience, and more of a focus on sustainable tourism and experiencing local culture.

Sunwing Vacations, for example, recently opened the adults-only CHIC Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, which offers a Miami South Beach vibe — with only 323 stylish suites. The resort features a poolside DJ booth, "mermaid" pool, oxygen bar, culinary "chef's table" experience, and spa with hydrotherapy circuit. And lots of mood lighting.

In an atypical move for a tour operator, Sunwing purchased the resort, so it "owns" the experience from start to finish. "It's working really well for us," says Jaqueline Grossman, senior director of marketing with Sunwing Travel Group. "It allows us to extend the whole value proposition across the entire experience, from the time you get on the plane with champagne service (through



CHIC Punta Cana offers a Miami South Beach vibe and tours through the DR. PHOTOS: VAWN HIMMELSBACH/METRO

Drink it

- **Mama Juana.** In the DR, it won't be long before someone offers you a shot of the local drink of choice: Mama Juana. Originally prepared by the Taino Indians as a medicinal drink to cure a range of ailments from headaches and joint pain to poor libido, the modern-day version consists of a mix of twigs, barks and herbs steeped for days in rum, red wine and local honey. Just don't drink too much, or what ails you will be a nasty hangover.



Tours off the resort offer travellers the chance to see some Dominican industries like coffee plantations.

a day or two. Country Safaris, a local tour operator that works in conjunction with Nexus Tours, takes tourists off the resort to see the countryside, visit villages and sample Dominican coffee, cacao and cigars.

It's also a chance for tourists to purchase locally produced

products, such as coconut oil and rum, straight from the farmers.

The DR is also seeing a big ecotourism trend, says Julio Lopez, a tour guide with Nexus Tours. It has responded by partnering with The Nature Conservancy, The Smithsonian and

Two nations, one island

Not everyone who visits the Dominican Republic realizes it shares the island with Haiti. But while the DR is considered a tropical paradise, Haiti remains one of the poorest countries in the world. This goes back to colonial times, when the Spanish handed over the western third of the island to the French in 1697. Hundreds of thousands of African slaves were brought there to help produce sugar, coffee, cacao and cotton. But the slaves rebelled and gained independence in 1804, renaming the former colony Haiti. However, independence was followed by rebellions, coups and dictatorships. Massive deforestation and a coastline prone to hurricanes have added to the country's socio-economic problems.

the United Nations, turning more than 25 per cent of the country into natural parks, reserves and marine sanctuaries.

Isla Saona — a postcard-perfect tropical island — is part of a protected national park system that makes up a good chunk of the Caribbean coastline.

Tourists can visit the island with tour operators such as Nexus Tours for a day of snorkelling, swimming and sunbathing on miles of inhabited beaches.

Closer to Punta Cana, tourists can head to Samaná Bay — one of the first whale sanctuaries in the world — to spot humpback whales, or the Indigenous Eyes Ecological Preserve for a dip in a freshwater lagoon believed to hold medicinal properties.

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Now is the time to spring for a golf trip to San Diego



The South Course at the municipally-owned Torrey Pines is set on seaside bluffs. COURTESY JOANNE DIBONA, SANDIEGO.ORG



If golf isn't your thing, San Diego offers plenty of scenic hiking opportunities. COURTESY LISA FIELD/SANDIEGO.ORG

California. There are more than 90 courses here to swing your sticks, but that's not all this city offers



BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolfttraveller.com

For winter-weary Canadian golfers, a visit to San Diego is like a first glimpse of paradise.

California's most southerly metropolis offers abundant sunshine, idyllic year-round

temperatures and is home to more than 90 golf courses in every imaginable setting—from oceanfront to desert to mountains.

Once an uninspiring Navy town, today's San Diego features a glittering skyline, world-class shopping and dining, and is recognized as an ideal family destination, with attractions such as SeaWorld, LEGOLAND and the USS Midway Museum.

Perhaps most impressive is Balboa Park, a verdant oasis in the heart of the city that is home to 15 museums and the renowned San Diego Zoo.

Golfers find themselves almost overwhelmed with choices. But at the top of any

must-play list are the world-famous South and North Courses at municipally-owned Torrey Pines Golf Course.

Set on seaside bluffs just north of the tony suburb of La Jolla, the South Course was where Tiger Woods clinched an epic come-from-behind victory over Rocco Mediate in the 2008 U.S. Open. And looming over this spectacular setting is the Lodge at Torrey Pines, a popular resort where the golf theme extends to the Scottish kilts worn by the bellboys.

Almost as famous as Torrey Pines is Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, nestled in coastal foothills about a 25-minute drive north of downtown San Diego.

Beyond the links

- **Balboa Park.** The largest urban cultural park in the U.S. offers meticulously maintained gardens, hiking trails and 15 museums, including the San Diego Air and Space Museum and the San Diego Natural History Museum. But Balboa Park's most popular attraction is the San Diego Zoo, home to more than 4,000 animals. The zoo's menagerie includes the largest population of giant pandas in the U.S.

The luxury resort's two recently renovated parkland-style layouts, Champions and Legends, have together hosted 37 PGA Tour events.

San Diego's golf roster runs the gamut from bare-bones municipal tracks to bucket-list courses with palatial club-

houses and sky-high green fees.

Unmatched in its elegance is Grand Del Mar resort, tucked in the scenic Sorrento Valley north of the city. The Mediterranean-inspired retreat includes Grand Del Mar Golf Club, a brilliant Tom Fazio design punctuated by dramatic shifts in elevation.

Another of Grand del Mar's headline attractions is Addison, one of California's premier fine dining restaurants. Fortunately, memorable golf doesn't have to bust the budget in San Diego.

Just across soaring Coronado Bay Bridge from downtown is one of the state's most popular municipal courses. More than 100,000 rounds a year are played at Coronado Golf Course, an affordable jewel (\$35 weekdays; \$40 weekends) that winds past the iconic Hotel Del Coronado, where the Marilyn Monroe classic *Some Like It Hot* was filmed in the late 1950s.

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Celebrate winter's last gasps with these activities



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Sick of the slopes? There are still ways to embrace the last few weeks of wintry weather that don't necessarily involve strapping on skis.

Perhaps one of the biggest trends in winter sports is snow biking, thanks to changes in bicycle technology — specifically, the exploding popularity of fat bikes.

Fat bikes can crush snow banks and float over powder in ways that traditional bikes can't. Outside Kelowna, B.C., the Silver Star Mountain Resort's Thursday Night Rides offer the opportunity for fat bikers to congregate on their two-wheeled steeds for a guided ride through Silver Star's snow-covered trees.

But if you really want to end winter with a bang, consider the Olympic Biathlon Experience at Manitoba's Falcon Trails Resort. With



Voyageur Quest cabin, northwest corner of Algonquin Provincial Park.
PARKS CANADA

the help of skilled biathlon coaches, you will discover the rules and rhythms of this unique sport, which combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting.

With a total of 26 provincial parks open this winter, Ontario is the perfect place for a weekend of winter camping. Eight have accommodation for rent, including cosy yurts, park rangers' cabins or even an off-the-grid log chalet with all sorts of extras

like Canada Goose coats and snowshoes for your use.

If you are snowshoeing in Quebec's La Mauricie National Park, head to Solitaire Lake or Lac aux Chevaux and take the snow-tag challenge. Using a GPS or a compass, draw an ephemeral piece of art with your snowshoes by walking or running on frozen lakes, then retrace your steps to the nearest lookout where you can admire your work and snap a photo.

Bucket list

perfect spot to keep an eye



Bora Bora

Nothing can prepare you for the exotic beauty of the island of Bora Bora, French Polynesia's incredible showpiece. This paradise offers a true taste of isolated island life, influenced by some of the very best things France is known for — great food included. Over-water bungalows of the major hotel chains are worth the splurge, and provide the

on the beach, the lagoon, the ocean and your book — all at the same time. Go snorkelling right off your back step, book a tour to swim with the sharks or feed the sting rays. Island-hopping is encouraged: You can't come all this way and not experience authentic Huahine or the breath-taking inlets of Moorea. April to October is the best time to go.

TEXT: DOUG WALLACE
PHOTO: TIM STEWART

Trend

Irish whiskey tasting at JFK

Swinging through JFK Airport Terminal 5 between now and St. Patrick's Day? Keep an eye out for pop-up whiskey-tasting stands courtesy of Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey, which is lauding the sights, sounds and tastes of Dublin. Bystanders can pick up any of the traditional Irish instruments on hand and join in the jam, not to mention the duty-free shopping.

TEXT: DOUG WALLACE
PHOTO: ISTOCK



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Breakfast or dessert. Carrot Cake Waffles

1. To make the syrup, in a small saucepan over medium-high, combine the brown sugar, water, raisins and both the fresh grated and dry ground ginger. Bring to a simmer, stirring

to combine, and heat until the sugar has dissolved. Remove the pan from the heat and set aside to steep.

2. Heat a waffle iron to medium-high. Heat the oven to 250 F.

3. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, brown sugar, oil, pineapple, walnuts, carrot, buttermilk and vanilla. In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Gently stir the dry ingredients into the liquid ingredients just until combined.

4. Spray the waffle iron with cooking spray and add 2/3 cup of batter, or an appropriate amount for your waffle iron. Cook as directed for your waffle iron, or until golden brown. Keep warm on a baking sheet in the oven while you cook the remaining waffles. Serve with butter, if desired, and the warm syrup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

For the ginger-raisin syrup

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup golden raisins
- 2 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp dry ground ginger

For the waffles

- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 8-oz can crushed pineapple (not drained)
- 1/2 cup toasted, chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup packed grated carrot
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp table salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- Butter, optional

Spices add extra zip to soup

Dinner. This carrot and bean combination features a dash of curry and other flavours for added taste



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This zippy carrot-bean soup is perfect to make ahead and freeze for lunches or enjoy for dinner with your favourite whole grain crackers.

Directions

1. In a soup pot, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion, garlic and ginger for 3 minutes or until softened. Stir in carrots, celery, potato, tomato paste and curry powder.

2. Pour in broth and water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for about 45 minutes or until carrots

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 5 large carrots, peeled and chopped (about 1 1/4 lb/575 g)
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 potato, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) tomato paste
- 2 tsp (10 ml) curry powder or paste
- 3 cups (750 ml) sodium-reduced vegetable broth
- 2 cups (500 ml) water
- 1 can (14 oz/398 ml) navy beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) chopped fresh cilantro
- Hot pepper sauce (optional)

are very tender.

3. Using an immersion blender or ladle into blender, purée soup in batches until smooth. Stir in beans and cilantro and heat through. Serve in deep bowls and drizzle with hot sauce, if desired.



This Curry Carrot and Bean Soup recipe makes 7 1/2 cups (1.875 L) of soup.
EMILY RICHARDS



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Habits that may be holding you back at work

Tips. When it comes to a stalled career, sometimes you can only blame yourself

LAUREN
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TalentEgg.ca

Do you feel held back at work?

It's easy to blame competition or management when you hit a brick wall in your career.

But it's important to remember that there is always something you can be doing to change your situation — and the first step is recognizing what you might be doing (or not doing) that's stopping your career advancement.

Not speaking up

One of the things that may be holding you back from

moving up the ladder in your workplace is keeping quiet.

Speaking up when you have an idea or something to contribute shows your employer that you not only care about your job, but also the company you work for. Sharing your input is also a great opportunity to demonstrate to your employer that you are capable of much more than doing assigned tasks, which could lead to bigger and better opportunities within your workplace.

It's also important to make sure you're asking questions. If you don't understand something, need more clarification, or you just want to learn more, don't hesitate to speak up and ask. People often fear that not understanding something may make them look bad; on the contrary, speaking up and asking the right questions will show your eagerness to learn.



Climbing that corporate ladder takes more than just simply showing up to work every day. ISTOCK

Not taking initiative

There is almost noth-

ing more irritating to an employer than having to babysit one of their workers. They want to see what you are capable of — but if they're constantly on your back about what you are working on, they are not likely going to give you additional opportunities.

Taking initiative and getting stuff done before it is asked of you is a quality that employers look for in their employees. Be the type of employee that your boss doesn't have to worry about because you are always one step ahead.

This means knowing what tasks you have for the day. Get your work done on time (or ahead of time, if possible). If you have questions, reach out to someone

— don't wait for someone to come up to you. If you're done your work, ask if there's anything you can assist with.

Lacking positivity

No matter how efficient you are at your work or how intelligent you are, you'll have a difficult time advancing if you don't demonstrate that you enjoy the work. Employers will be hesitant to promote someone who doesn't seem passionate, especially since individuals in management positions are often expected to represent the company in a positive fashion to both their team and clients.

Managers usually base their judgments on observations. If they get the impression you don't enjoy your work (even if you do!), then

It's time to contribute

Speaking up when you have an idea or something to contribute shows your employer that you not only care about your job, but also the company you work for.

the outcome will still be the same.

Luckily, this is fairly easy to remedy. Smile and greet your colleagues on a daily basis. It may feel forced at first, but you'll find you'll adopt to your new habits soon enough!

Not showing commitment

Not showing that you're committed to your job and workplace can be a huge reason you aren't advancing. Employers look for people willing to go above and beyond, who aren't just there for a paycheck.

Show commitment: you may need to come in early or stay late to get a project done on time, or hook your email up to your cell phone to stay on top of everything.

Perhaps you're doing this already, and management hasn't noticed. Consider sending your manager a casual update, letting them know what you've been working on and how it's going. Briefly mention the processes you've implemented, or the different steps you've taken to make sure everything is taken care of. This is a subtle way of making sure you're on their radar!



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The Flames' Lance Bouma screens Senators goalie Craig Anderson from a shot as Mika Zibanejad defends in Ottawa Sunday. The Flames wiped out a four-goal deficit to force overtime before losing in a shootout. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

Flames refuse to fade in push for playoffs

NHL. Even after losing captain, team finished road trip with 9 out of a possible 14 points

A few days ago, it was daisies. Now Calgary Flames head coach Bob Hartley says his team is as fresh as roses.

Whatever blossom Hartley chooses next, he might consider a pesticide-resistant weed.

A seven-game road trip, minus their captain and best player for most of it, is often enough to end the playoff

aspirations of an NHL team on the bubble.

Calgary (36-25-5) came home feeling good about itself and its post-season chances, especially after how it ended its swing through the Eastern Conference.

Down 4-0 against the Ottawa Senators on Sunday, the Flames scored four unanswered goals to salvage a shootout point — their ninth out of a possible 14 on that trek.

"It seems like the whole season we have this drive," Flames leading scorer Jiri Hudler said Tuesday. "We're not giving up, even if we're down

Comeback kids

23

Calgary has generated 23 of its 77 points going into the third without a lead.

a couple of goals, like we did in Ottawa the other night."

The Flames hold down third in the Pacific Division, just two points up on Los Angeles and three ahead of San Jose.

Calgary has won 10 games this season when trailing after two periods. That ties the Flames for the NHL lead with

Anaheim, which visits the Scotiabank Saddledome on Wednesday.

Karri Ramo gets the start in goal for Calgary.

While Sunday's comeback resulted in one point and not two, it indicated the Flames weren't dispirited after losing captain Mark Giordano to a season-ending bicep injury late in the second game of their road trip.

"On the bench, when we scored that first goal I said to myself 'Here we go again,'" Hartley said. "They were coming back to the bench and yelling and laughing and that's who we are." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NFL

Revis signs with Jets, Seahawks trade for Graham

Until the New York Jets landed Darrelle Revis, the first hours of NFL free agency Tuesday looked more like fantasy football.

Trades, anyone?

Monster deals sending Jimmy Graham to Seattle and Sam Bradford to Philadelphia stole the spotlight from free agent signings. That is until mid-evening, when Revis Island returned to the Meadowlands.

The Jets dug into their past to bring back the All-Pro cornerback, according to his agents. Revis goes from the Jets' archrival Patriots, who he helped win the Super Bowl last month, to his NFL roots.

The deal is for five years and \$70 million, with \$39 million guaranteed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Blues' Jackman scores winner from downtown

Barret Jackman scored his first goal in 36 games with 1:03 left, launching a shot from centre ice to give the Blues a 5-4 win over the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday night.

After his team squandered a three-goal, third-period lead, Jackman bailed the Blues out when got control of the puck along the left boards in the neutral zone off a faceoff.

He appeared to be just dumping the puck into the Jets' end, but his shot was on net and it handcuffed goalie Ondrej Pavelec.

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Flames prospect Sam Bennett has five goals and six assists in six games with the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs this season. OHL IMAGES

Flames have hidden gems in prospects

Deceptive rankings.

Calgary may be 8th on list but its true place should be in top five



THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

Calgary's list of top 10 prospects and 21-and-under NHLers is ranked eighth best in the NHL according to The Hockey News Future Watch edition. But that's deceiving. The Flames have such a deep list of prospects in the development system, it's not a stretch to say Calgary would have cracked the top five if the requirements went a little deeper.

Here's why. Let's start by looking at the A-list prospects, specifically those who ranked among the top-75 league-wide according to a panel of 13 NHL scouts. Sam Bennett came in at No. 2 across the NHL, even though he didn't start playing until February. (He has 11 points in his first six OHL games). Center Markus Granlund finished No. 64, while winger Emile Poirier was 68th.

Rounding out the top 10 were a pair of goalies projected to be future NHL stoppers, Joni Orto at No. 4 and Jon Gillies at No. 6. Since-traded Sven Baertschi was No. 5. The bottom four spots were Michael Ferland (No. 7), Tyler Wotherspoon (No. 8), Bill Arnold (No. 9) and Brandon Hickey (No. 10). Now where the Flames really excelled was in their list of prospects from No. 11 to 20, many of whom would have cracked a lot of top 10 lists on other teams. This

Stats study

After 65 games: The Flames have done extremely well in the win-loss column considering they're on the wrong end of where they take faceoffs. Calgary ranks low in offensive-zone faceoffs, meaning the Flames take a lot in their own zone (depicted in ranking below). Only Buffalo is worse.

Defensive-zone faceoffs

1. Tampa Bay, 27.53%
2. Detroit, 27.90%
3. Pittsburgh, 28.96%
28. Toronto, 35.30%
29. Calgary, 36.08%
30. Buffalo, 39.23%

is a sign how well Calgary has drafted is recent years, referred to as the Jay Feaster era.

That list of "secondary" prospects include former top-10 names Morgan Klimchuk, Mark Jankowski, Max Reinhart and Patrick Sieloff, along with 2014 draft selections Austin Carroll, Hunter Smith and Mason McDonald.

Heck, there's a solid third group of 10 prospects who could become important players for the farm and challenge for NHL depth jobs. They include Ken Agostino, Brett Kulak, Adam Ollas Mattsson, and Bryce Van Brabant.

The Flames have built up their foundation so well, the challenge now is establishing the balance between allowing room for a few to seriously challenge for an NHL job next September and allowing the majority to ripen on the farm. And don't forget, Calgary has six picks among the first 80 selections in the June draft.

MLB

Jays pitcher Stroman likely out for season with torn ACL

The Toronto Blue Jays suffered a body blow Tuesday with the news that young starter Marcus Stroman is expected to miss the entire season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during a fielding drill.

General manager Alex An-

thopoulos said the 23-year-old right-hander will seek a second opinion from Dr. James Andrews, and surgery is likely.

Anthopoulos said Stroman was participating in bunting practice when he was called off by third baseman Josh Donaldson. Stroman planted his feet to stop, then felt a pop in his knee.

An MRI confirmed the tear. "Beyond devastated," Stroman tweeted. "Not being able to compete with my brothers

each and every day is extremely disappointing. Still can't believe it."

It was the second significant training camp injury for the Jays. Canadian outfielder Michael Saunders tore the meniscus in his knee in a freak accident when he stepped into a sprinkler head indentation while shagging fly balls. Saunders could be ready for Opening Day, however, after having 60 per cent of his meniscus removed. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blue Jays pitcher Marcus Stroman
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2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee

- **Type.** Four-door, five-passenger midsize SUV
- **Engines (hp).** 3.6-litre V6 (290), 5.7-litre V8 (360) 3.0-L V6 Diesel (240), 6.4-litre V8 (475)
- **Transmissions.** Eight-speed automatic
- **Price.** Base \$40,495, as-tested \$68,580 (excluding destination)

Market position

By putting the diesel into just the high-end trims, Jeep hopes to take on German brands such as Mercedes-Benz and BMW. This SUV does everything the competitors' vehicles do, but may face an uphill battle with buyers who prefer those traditional top-shelf nameplates.

Points

- The Grand Cherokee comes in five trim lines and choice of four engines, including a 475-hp V8 in the performance SRT model.
- The Overland name comes from Willys-Overland, one of the Jeep manufacturers during the Second World War.
- The diesel version can tow up to 3,265 kg (7,200 lbs.) and go up to 1,100 km on a tank of fuel.



Everything from a heated steering wheel to rear seat entertainment is available for the Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Interesting features

Standard 4x4, capless fuel fill, trailer sway control, and dual-zone climate control; available heated steering wheel, air suspension, dual sunroof, adaptive cruise control, rear-seat entertainment system.

Jeep's take on the premium SUV

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Review. The 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee EcoDiesel holds up with top of the line features

Diesel has long been popular in Europe for luxury vehicles, but while it's still relatively rare in cars here, it's showing up more and more on premium SUVs, including the Jeep Grand Cherokee EcoDiesel.

These engines are all about torque (in the Grand Cherokee's case, 420 lb.-ft.) delivered almost right at the start for strong acceleration and solid mid-range power. They also offer relatively good fuel economy and long range with fewer fill-ups, although most are pricier than their gasoline siblings, as is their fuel these days as well.

The Grand Cherokee starts at \$40,495 for a V6 gas engine, for example, and you can also get a gas V8. But in an effort to compete with the premium diesel-powered brands, Jeep is only offering the diesel in the top-line Overland and Summit models, where the engine op-



PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

tion adds as much as \$7,145 to the price. And while my Overland tester was already luxuriously equipped with such standard features as heated and ventilated leather seats, suede-style headliner, navigation system, and heated power-adjustable steering wheel, it also had add-on options including a rear-seat Blu-Ray entertainment system and such electronic safety features as adaptive cruise control and collision warning,

which brought it to \$68,580.

That's a lot of cash, but the company has learned a lot about interiors over the last few years, and I'd put this up against any of its premium-brand competitors. The materials are top-notch, it's all extremely comfortable, and almost everything's easy to use. The one misstep is an electronic shifter for the eight-speed automatic that's far too fiddly. This would be a great place for Chrysler's

dial-style shifter unit.

An air suspension lowers for easy access or rises for off-road, and you can select optimal settings to handle snow, sand, or rock, along with four-wheel low gearing.

The ultimate irony is that few will actually take such a pricey truck into the tough stuff, but especially with this engine and its low-end power, owners will at least know they can.

Compare



1 Volkswagen Touareg Diesel
Base price: \$53,975
VW remains among the diesel leaders, and the Touareg's version is smooth and great to drive.



2 BMW X5 xDrive35d
Base price: \$67,000
Available three-row seating makes this diesel a premium alternative for larger families.



3 Porsche Cayenne Diesel
Base price: \$71,300
Porsche's largest SUV remains its best-selling model among all the company's vehicles.

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Automakers bank on driver desire for comfort and style

Autopilot. At the Geneva Motor Show, beauty and technology shared the spotlight



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

In the future, we may be chauffeured in conveyances fuelled by antimatter and electronically leashed to some sort of highway network, but that doesn't mean they have to look like crap.

The drive to look good seems pretty much entrenched.

Volkswagen Sport Coupe GTE

Sport Coupe GTE is a vision of a vehicle VW is contemplating to position above the current CC coupe, as one the brand's more premium offerings. It looks like a coupe, but has four doors and a tailgate. The GTE signifies "plug-in hybrid" in VW vernacular. VW said it has a top speed of 155 mph and returns 118 mpg. When drivers wear smart watches or the connected armband, the vehicle can select a route — exciting or gentle — to match your biometric data.

Lexus LF-SA Concept

The LF-SA is a vision of what Lexus might consider for customers who need a small, urban vehicle, but who still view driving as a luxury experience, and one they are unprepared to forgo.

The tiny vehicle can seat four in a pinch, but the driver cockpit gets overwhelming priority.

The driver's seat is fixed, with adjustable steering wheel and pedals, bringing the vehicle to the driver. The front passenger seat, however, slides, allowing access to the rear.

The infotainment system includes a hologram-style digital display.

Bentley EXP 10 Speed 6

According to Bentley, the EXP 10 Speed 6 is not just a new sports car concept.

It could be a future new model, and its styling — described as "lean, toned and precise" — could also influence future Bentley models.

The precision comes from 3D styling details, such as the iconic Bentley mesh grille, which is no longer flat on the EXP, but includes lattice-work of varying depths, only visible when viewed at an angle.

The automotive industry is always interesting, but lately it's more interesting.

In fact, judging by what was on display at last week's show in Geneva, the industry is on fire.

On fire in a good way, of course, and maybe because the industry has to respond to a multitude of cultural and technical trends, and nothing stimulates creativity and performance like a challenge.

Some of the culture and technical challenges include self-driving vehicles, electric and fuel-cell propulsion, super-connected vehicles and infotainment systems, more urban living, having to compete globally in markets that were not historically predisposed to your brand's particular strengths, and, increasingly so, the spectre of the world's largest and most aggressive and technological-orientated companies — Google and Apple — considering respective moves onto the auto industry turf.

So much of the cool stuff that debuted at Geneva this year embraces some or all of those challenges.

Here are three concepts worthy of your perusal, because they did it with such aplomb.

All three are quite different but they look equally amazing, which bodes well for all of us who view cars as more than just transportation.

Quoted

"Judging by what was on display at last week's show in Geneva, the industry is on fire."

Mike Goetz

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Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

EV interest grows through cul-de-sac effect

Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn notes in a post on LinkedIn that the Renault-Nissan Alliance recently sold its 200,000th zero-emissions car, a Nissan Leaf. Launched four years ago, the Leaf is "by far" the top-selling electric vehicle worldwide, he wrote, with sales up 20 per cent this year. In an article titled Zero-Emission Cars: Both Consumers and the Environment Win, Ghosn lists several reasons why electric-vehicle sales are expected to only get healthier. They are: convenient, economical, fun, reliable, and their buyers tend to become almost evangelical about their vehicle's virtues. The first Leaf owners in a neighbourhood share their enthusiasm with neighbours, friends and family, said Ghosn. "(and) sales grow as more people see and experience the benefits first-hand." **ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM**

Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn says that the Leaf's increasing popularity is partially due to owners who like to tell other people about the electric vehicle.



Bolt might get a new name, will be sold all over North America

General Motors has officially confirmed a Reuters news agency report that it will build and sell the Chevrolet Bolt electric car, with production expected to begin late next year, and sales soon after. GM North America president Alan Batey confirmed at the Chicago Auto Show in mid-February that the Bolt would be built at the Orion Assembly Plant, 50 kilometres north of Detroit, Mich. First shown in January at the Detroit Auto Show, the Bolt is a battery electric hatchback with a 320-kilometre range. GM CEO Mary Barra pegged its price at \$37,500 US, before incentives. The production version of the Bolt Concept — a name change could be in the offing — will be offered in all 50 states and Canada.



With a range of 320 kilometres, the Bolt will be sold in all 50 U.S. states as well as Canada.

Shift points

- Toyota will triple production of its new Mirai fuel-cell sedan next year, sparked by an unexpected glut of orders. It will increase production to 2,000 units next year — almost triple the 700 Mirais slated for this year.
- California boasts the highest rate of electric vehicles purchased, with five in every 1,000 vehicles sold there using an outlet to charge batteries, says a U.S. Energy Information Administration report.
- Kansas City, Mo., has set its sights on establishing an electric-car infrastructure in 2015, working with a local utility company to build a network of charge sites throughout the area.



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Vehicles might not be exactly as shown. Mazda 3 - Payments are based on a 48 month Lease with \$1,500.00 down payment on Stk # FM183724. Mazda CX 5 - Payments are based on a 48 Month lease with \$2,500.00 down payment on Stk # F0535107. Manufacture rebates are included.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
**Scan this image with your
Metro News app for today's
crossword and Sudoku answers.**
It's OK. No one's watching.



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

No matter how busy you are, find an outlet for your physical desires. Mars, your ruler, is so strong today that mental challenges won't be enough.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

There is someone you want to know better but can't think of an approach. What happens today will throw you together and before you know it you will be more than just friends.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Make sure your ambitions are not too outrageous because if they are you may fall short of what you expect of yourself and your confidence will suffer.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Your mind is a powerful tool and if you think positive thoughts today and for the rest of the week there is no doubt that positive things will occur.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Someone who is as different to you as chalk is to cheese will make a big impression on you today, big enough perhaps to change your assumptions about certain kinds of people.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Others will respond to you extremely well today — it's as if they are making a special effort to be nice to you. Take advantage of the situation by telling them what it is you need.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

A relationship that has been going through a rocky phase needs to be dealt with once and for all. Cosmic activity in your opposite sign of Aries suggests it may be better to call it a day.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't let people's criticisms make you feel guilty because the planets indicate you've done nothing wrong. The reason they are having a go at you is because they envy your abilities.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

There is good in everybody and if you find that hard to believe what happens by the end of the day will convince you.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

There's no point getting involved in something you won't enjoy, so let those trying to persuade you to get involved know you're having none of it.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You can get almost anything you desire now. Your charm levels are such that few people will be able to deny you, no matter how outrageous some of your demands might be.

♓ Pisces

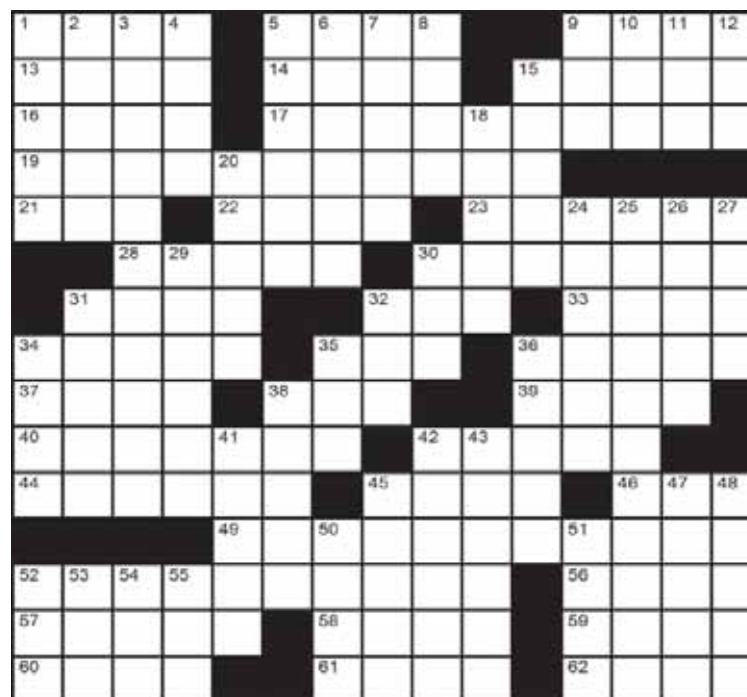
Feb. 20 - March 20

You don't lack for courage but the planets warn you could cross the line into recklessness. They also warn friends and finances won't go together over the next 24 hours.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Music Keys: F and A, e.g.
5. Robbie Robertson's "Hell's Half ____"
9. Put cargo on board
13. Flu symptom
14. Tallow source
15. Ecum ___, Nova Scotia
16. Zippo
17. Those who explore caves
19. Canada's largest national park, it's on the Alberta/NWT border: 2 wds.
21. Queen E.'s young-est
22. Ostrich-like birds
23. Tiredly walk
28. Gordon Lightfoot's "The Way ____"
30. Adrian of "Entourage"
31. 'Seniors', short-ened
32. "Oh, give ____ home..."
33. Li'l legislators
34. Bakery item
35. Gamble
36. "____ out!" (Behave!)
37. Play ____ (Parti-cipate in some tennis)
38. Useful souvenir
39. 'Import' suffix
40. Earth invader
42. Billy Bob Thornton series on FX Canada
44. Allocate
45. Art Deco designer



46. Canadian hwy. miles
49. Canada's Bread Basket... The Prairies sight: 2 wds.
52. "Waiting So Long" Vancouver band: 2 wds.
56. Almond hue
57. Victor Garber show
58. Artist sampled on

- Eminem's "Stan"
59. Air assault
60. Sci-Fi classic, "The ____" (1958)
61. Actor Mr. Bean
62. Years: Spanish

Down

1. Paul McCartney's "____ Was Lonely"
2. Put in ____ word

- (Recommend)
3. Those taking home trophies at this week-end's on-CTV-music-honouring show in Hamilton: 2 wds.
4. "The Bad ____" (1956)
5. Acquire, as duties
6. Needing-sugar neighbour's request
7. Coral formations

8. "____ tete, Alouette..."
9. Albanian currency
10. Deck symbol
11. Hard: French
12. British writer Mr. Forster, et al.
15. Bedroom buzzzzzz...
18. 'U' of UHF
20. 'Wilde' tail (Gnu)
24. Hardly heralded

- like many a hero
25. Particular soda pop container: 3 wds.
26. Wishes granter
27. Formerly
29. Little Richard's "Tutti ____"
30. Capture
31. Slugger Sammy's
32. "Family Guy" sister
34. Lady: Spanish
35. Veggie burger need
36. Baseball great Rod
38. Lord's house
41. "Fancy" rapper Ms. Azalea's
42. Actress Ms. Pinto
43. "News ____" (Global News program in Toronto)
45. Oscar-winner Mr. Redmayne
47. "Extra" host Mr. Lopez
48. Earring choices
50. Chaps
51. Olympian queen
52. Concealer-apply-ing amount
53. "____ get it!" (Telephone-ringing exclamation)
54. Macaw-starring 2011 animation
55. Bar bill

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	9	8	7	3	2	5	1
5	8	7	2	1	9	3	6	4
2	3	1	6	4	5	7	9	8
8	4	2	1	9	6	5	7	3
3	1	5	7	2	8	9	4	6
9	7	6	5	3	4	8	1	2
7	9	4	3	8	1	6	2	5
6	2	8	4	5	7	1	3	9
1	5	3	9	6	2	4	8	7

			1			5		
	3		5		6	4		
							2	9
7	5				2		8	
	1		3				5	4
8	4							
		3	4		8		7	
		2			9			

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